

Safeguarding Bulletin 2023-2024

SUMMER TERM EDITION 6

Thank you.

I would like to thank you all for the support and vigilance you have shown over the last academic year, to ensure that all our young people are safe and thriving. Since taking over the role of Director of Safeguarding, I have been able to get to know families and parents and carers and foster strong relationships that have allowed me and my team to build a robust culture of safeguarding and positive mental health throughout the College. Over the last year, we have seen the further development of the Wellbeing Hub, which provides a safe and nurturing environment during social times. We now have tier 3 mental health support embedded in our practice via the implementation of Centre 33 counselling. We have worked hard to act swiftly and effectively when there are instances of bullying and child-on-child abuse and have also looked more closely at prejudice-based behaviour and how to educate students around this. Safeguarding is always at the forefront of our thinking and all that we do at the College and your support and understanding of this complex area is hugely appreciated. I wish you all a happy and safe summer break and look forward to working with you all again in the new academic year.

Kind regards

Louise Keen, Director of Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Please remember that anyone can make a referral to social care with a safeguarding concern. Ideally, this should be done via the county in which the referee lives. If this is unknown, the county of the referrer should be used.

For **Cambridgeshire**, [click here](#)

For **Essex**, [click here](#)

For **Suffolk**, [click here](#)

In an emergency, please dial 999 or to speak to the localised police, dial 101.

Please also note that over the holiday period the thinkpink@lintonvc.org email address will not be supervised.

Features and Updates

This edition of the Safeguarding Bulletin features: information about **prejudice-based behaviour**, **river safety** and **road safety**.

River and road safety

We would like students to enjoy the summer break but we also realise that young people, particularly under significant peer pressure, can engage in risk taking behaviours.

We know that most parents and carers regularly talk to their children about mitigation of risk. From our experiences at school, we often see young people, plugged into their devices listening to music, unaware of what is going on around them in terms of bikes, buses and other vehicles more generally. Furthermore, we are aware of how exciting a day out alongside the river is for young people but also the side effects of swimming in (for example, the river Cam) water with sewage pollution and potential debris on the riverbed.

Key signposting to additional services

[CEOPs](#) (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre)

[Childline](#)

[Kooth](#) (Online mental health community)

[Mind](#) (Mental health information and support)

[Young Mind](#) (as above but for young people, parents and carers)



The Protected Characteristics

These 9 characteristics are protected by law and cannot be used as a reason to discriminate against someone (treat them unfairly)

- Age
- Race
- Religion
- Disability
- Marriage & Civil partnership
- Maternity & pregnancy
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Gender reassignment

PREJUDICIAL BEHAVIOUR & DISCRIMINATION MUST STOP

If you see or experience any prejudicial behaviour report it to someone. Peer Postcard, Thinkpink email, tell a teacher, Form tutor or Head of Year.

We have looked carefully at the teaching and education around protected characteristics to equip young people for the adult world. We have conducted assemblies around this topic, built it into PSHE lessons and provided visual resources to ensure that all members of the College community are aware of what the protected characteristics are.

There have been some instances of prejudice-based behaviour and Mrs Hill has developed and delivered further education and support to those students involved.